

Gimme Them Peanuts!

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A "Hokum" Afterpiece



WALTER H. BAKER COMPANY
BOSTON, MASS.

WIGS

AND OTHER HAIR GOODS

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State Color Wanted on Hair Goods.

Full Beard on Wire.....	\$1 50	Side Whiskers on Gauze..	\$1.00
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WALTER H. BAKER CO., Boston, Mass.

Gimme Them Peanuts!

A "Hokum" Afterpiece in Three Scenes

By

WALTER BEN HARE

*Author of more than one hundred plays including
"A Couple of Million," "The Adventures of Grandpa,"
"Professor Pepp," "Old Days in Dixie," "Over
Here," "Much Ado About Betty," "The Hoodoo,"
"Teddy, or the Runaways," "The Dutch De-
tective," "And Billy Disappeared," etc.*



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Gimme Them Peanuts!

A "Hokum" Afterpiece in Three Scenes

CHARACTERS

PREVIOUS, *the hungry.*

MONEYPENNY, *the nut.*

GLADYS, *the nurse.*

DINTY, *the crook.*

DUSTY, *the tramp.*

McGINTY, *the cop.*

(All may be played in blackface, or only PREVIOUS, at the discretion of the manager.)

SCENE ONE

SCENE:—*A room neatly furnished. Couch down L. Table and chairs down R. Entrance at L. Practical window at rear. Mysterious music takes up curtain. Dark stage disclosed. DINTY appears at window and flashes light around the stage.*

DINTY. Nobody here. 'Tis well. This will be an easy job. *(Climbs in the window.)* I'll close the doors and turn up the lights.

(PREVIOUS *appears at the window. He carries a lighted candle in a bird-cage and a big carpet-bag of burglar tools.*)

PREVIOUS. Am this the place?

DIN. Shhh! You mustn't make any noise. You'll arouse the house.

PRE. 'Then maybe they'll gimme something to eat. Honest, boss, I ain't had nuffin to eat for two days. Ain't had a square meal for two weeks. Ain't had chicken for two years.

DIN. Shhh! Come in, and don't make any noise.

PRE. This here being a burglar certn'y am a hungry business.

(*Climbs in at window awkwardly, falls making a big racket.*)

DIN. (*points revolver at him*). Another bit of noise and you'll wake up a corpse.

PRE. (*on floor*). Gimme that revolver!

DIN. What do you want with the revolver?

PRE. I want to eat it.

DIN. First we must find out where the old man keeps his safe?

PRE. Say, boss, I wants to know just one thing.

DIN. Well?

PRE. Is there anything to eat in that safe?

DIN. No, but there is money, plenty of it, maybe a million dollars, and diamonds.

PRE. I'd rather have a po'k chop and some nice fried onions.

DIN. Here is my jimmy. This little jimmy will do the work.

PRE. Whar is he?

DIN. Who?

PRE. Jimmy.

DIN. Keep still. Don't say a word. Don't move. Don't breathe.

PRE. (*gives a long sigh*).

DIN. What's that?

PRE. It just slipped out.

DIN. If you make any more noise I'll murder you.

PRE. I tell you it just slipped out. I'm so hungry I can't help it. I feel like my inner tube has got a slow puncture.

DIN. Now I'll turn up the lights. We're all alone.
(*Lights up.*)

PRE. Let's go out and rob the kitchen.

DIN. No, I'm after the safe. I must use force.

PRE. If I had some Force I'd eat it.

DIN. If you ever expect to be a housebreaker you must learn to keep silent.

PRE. I used to have a brother who was a housebreaker. He ain't now.

DIN. What is he now?

PRE. He's a stonebreaker. He always was crooked.

DIN. Crooked?

PRE. Yup. He's a hunchback.

DIN. If I get at the safe I have the gunpowder all ready. Did you ever use gunpowder?

PRE. Never did. I always use insect powder.

DIN. Now I'm going to look for the safe. You stay here and keep watch.

PRE. If they's any peanuts in dat safe, boss, don't forget li'l' Previous.

DIN. (*dramatically*). Move but one step while I am away and I will fill you as full of holes as a Sweitzer cheese. [*Exit.*]

PRE. I certn'y wish I could find a ham sandwich walkin' round in here. I'm so hungry dat if any one said eat to me, every one ob ma six cylinders would backfire. (*Sees bowl of goldfish on table.*) Lawsy, lawsy, look-a there! The good angel's done answered ma prayer. Dey got a fish pond right here on the table. Here's whar I eats. (*Tries to catch fish.*) Come here, dog gone you, come here and lemme catch you. (*MONEYPENNY enters and watches him unobserved.*) I got one. (*Eats it.*) Tastes kinda damp and wetty but it certn'y got a fine flavor. (*NOTE. Make the fish of carrots.*)

MONEYPENNY (*comes down*). Ah, there you are!

PRE. Discovered!

MON. I'm glad you're here.

PRE. Is you?

MON. I've been waiting for you all afternoon.

PRE. Let's have some supper.

MON. Do you know who I am?

PRE. I don't recognize your face, but your manner certn'y am familiar.

MON. To tell you the truth, I am a nut.

PRE. I wish you was a doughnut.

MON. My father was a kernel, and that made me a nut. I just landed here from Brazil. Surely you know my sister.

PRE. Do I?

MON. Her name is Hazel. If they get silk from a silkworm where does the tape come from?

PRE. Man, you cert'ny got a line of fluent conversation.

MON. Do you remember the first time we met?

PRE. I shore do, it was in ———. (*Name near-by town.*)

MON. You took me up in your aeroplane.

PRE. Who did?

MON. Don't you remember? I put the goggles on my eyes and climbed in the car. You started it and we went skimming along the ground, then we rose a thousand feet in the air.

PRE. Dat was some rise.

MON. Now we are skimming along at a great rate. See, there's the moon. Hippity hop, right over the moon!

PRE. Say, we's sure going some, ain't we?

MON. But there's a cow on the track.

PRE. Dat's the cow that jumped over the moon.

MON. Now the brakeman is ringing his bell and we slow down to ninety miles an hour. The conductor and the porter in the Pullman car are playing pinochle in the baggage coach.

PRE. Ain't we up in an airship?

MON. Toot toot, goes the whistle, clang-clang goes the bell!

PRE. We hit that old cow and are blown all to (*Hesitates.*) the bad place!

MON. But my horse is running faster than your horse. -

PRE. Your hoss?

MON. He's a bay filly and yours is a chestnut mare.

PRE. Gimme them chestnuts.

MON. We are racing for dear life! Her ears are thrown back and foam covers her nostrils. On we speed, me on my good steed Peanuts!

PRE. Gimme them peanuts!

MON. And there's only one thing that kept me from winning the race.

PRE. Somebody ate the peanuts.

MON. No, something is the matter with the rudder and the ship is veering around.

PRE. Ship? What ship?

MON. 'The good old bark, Fido.

PRE. Fido is a hot dog now.

MON. A storm is coming up and the waves are rolling high. "Stop! All hands on deck! I am the captain of this craft and I order the ship to lay to!"

PRE. Order it to lay two eggs and gimme one.

MON. There is a mutiny on board and the sailors refuse to take my orders.

PRE. Give your orders to the cook, see if he'll take 'em. I'll order peanuts.

MON. I'm getting seasick.

PRE. It wouldn't do me no good to get seasick. I couldn't get no results.

MON. It always makes me seasick to ride across the desert on a camel.

PRE. Are we on the desert now?

MON. Certainly we are on the desert.

PRE. I'll have some peanut pie for my desert.

MON. Right over there is a date palm, the camels are heading for the date palm.

PRE. I like dates, too.

MON. But there is trouble in the gear-case and the ninety horse-power Ford is slowing down. Was that a puncture?

PRE. Shore was, and I'm the result. (*Showing trousers are much too large.*)

MON. Get out and crank up.

PRE. Crank up what, the camels?

MON. Certainly not, the Fatimas.

PRE. You tell 'em, old crank, you've lost your nut.

MON. Now we're spinning down the boulevard in great shape. We'll get there at last if the gasoline holds out.

PRE. Yes, but my appetite's holdin' out, too.

MON. All the girls are out on the dock watching our motor boat.

PRE. Say, man, you certn'y are a traveller, ain't you?

MON. And now we're at the county fair riding around on the merry-go-round.

PRE. Hold on, boss, I ain't on no merry-go-round.

MON. Where are you?

PRE. I'm driving the bakery wagon down (*Name.*) Street and delivering warm home-made mince pies and peanuts.

(*Enter NURSE.*)

NURSE (*to PREVIOUS*). Oh, you've come at last, have you?

PRE. Yas'm, lady, I've come. He said he'd been waiting for me all afternoon.

NURSE. You are just in time. The first thing you must do is to bathe his temples with cold water.

PRE. I'd much prefer to bathe them with oyster soup.

(*Enter DINTY.*)

DIN. (*seeing others*). Discovered!

NURSE. Who is this man?

PRE. That's my father.

NURSE. Oh, then it's all right. I thought he was a burglar.

DIN. Certainly not. I am his father.

NURSE. And you brought him here to take the position?

DIN. Exactly. He came to take the position.

NURSE. First, I must ask you a few questions. Is your son honest?

PRE. Honest and hungry.

DIN. Certainly, he is honest.

NURSE. Has he had any experience?

DIN. A little.

PRE. I ain't had very much experience in being honest. But I certainly am an experienced eater.

NURSE. He seems strong and capable.

DIN. And he's very good natured.

NURSE. I suppose you saw my advertisement in the morning papers. I said I wanted a good, strong boy to take care of an invalid.

DIN. He's strong, all right.

NURSE. Yes, I noticed that the minute I came into the room.

DIN. Well, I think I'll go now. My boy gets the job, does he?

NURSE. I'll try him out.

DIN. Very well. You may send his wages to me. Mr. Dynamite Dinty, General Delivery. I'll get 'em.

PRE. Yes'm, he'll get 'em. He always gets everything. I don't even get my eatings.

DIN. Good-evening. (*Goes to door.*)

NURSE. Good-evening, sir.

DIN. Maybe I'll drop in later.

[*Exits.*]

NURSE. Now, boy, what's your name?

PRE. My name's Previous.

NURSE. Previous what?

PRE. Previous Difficulties.

NURSE. I think you had better take Mr. Moneypenny out for a little evening walk.

PRE. After supper.

NURSE. No, you shall have your supper when you get back.

PRE. If I don't have some supper I'll never get back.

NURSE. Oh, that's all right. Eating isn't everything.

PRE. No'm, lady, but it shore is important once in a while.

NURSE. Now above all things you must humor Mr. Moneypenny.

PRE. Humor him? What with?

NURSE. Whatever he wants you to do you must do it.

PRE. I hope he'll want me to eat.

NURSE. You understand (*Touches forehead.*) he's just a little eccentric.

PRE. He ain't crazy, is he?

NURSE. Certainly not. He has too much money to be crazy. He's just a little eccentric, that's all. I'll leave him in your care while I prepare his Oz-o-ka-loosum. [*Exit.*]

PRE. Say, prepare me some of that Ozo-kaloo-sum too. I like mine fried. Bring me some peanuts, too.

MON. (*coming down*). And now for the shining adventure.

PRE. (*c., a little up-stage*). He ain't crazy, he's just eccentric.

MON. You must be very careful with me, boy, very careful. For I'm all made of glass.

PRE. (*looks at him curiously*).

MON. And you mustn't take me into the sunshine.

PRE. No, he ain't crazy, he's just eccentric.

MON. A transformation has taken place in me. I have been changed into a piece of glass. My head is cracked.

PRE. You tell 'em, old liberty bell, you're cracked clean through.

MON. Folks can see right through me.

PRE. Yas, and if I don't get sump'm to eat pretty soon, folks kin see right through me, too.

MON. In the first place we must go out.

PRE. In the first place we must eat.

MON. We must buy some peanuts.

PRE. Now you's talking.

MON. You see my old grandfather died from peanuts.

PRE. What did he do? Have peanuts on the brain?

MON. No, he was very ill and the doctors refused to let him have any solid food for days and days and days. Finally he eluded them and ate five dollars' worth of peanuts, and he died.

PRE. Oh, death, where is thy sting? If I had five dollars' worth of peanuts I'd take a chance.

MON. And he left me all his money on one condition.

PRE. Peanuts.

MON. Precisely. Once every year on grandpa's birthday I must go out to the graveyard on the stroke of midnight and place a large sack of peanuts on his grave.

PRE. And what becomes of them peanuts?

MON. He eats them.

PRE. Who eats 'em?

MON. My grandfather. He comes right up out of his grave and eats them.

PRE. (*to audience*). No, he ain't crazy, he's just eccentric.

MON. You mustn't tell the nurse.

PRE. I won't tell her a word.

MON. Then we'll sneak out and buy some peanuts. (*Getting loud.*) We'll buy sacks of peanuts, bushels of peanuts, oceans and oceans full of peanuts.

PRE. (*boldly*). Go ahead, go as far as you like.

MON. (*dancing around and yelling*). Nothing like peanuts, peanuts. (*Sings.*) Peanuts for my grandpa's grave.

(*Enter NURSE with glass of milk.*)

NURSE. Here, here, here. Calm down. Take a sip of this. (*Gives him sip of milk.*)

PRE. He was just going to buy some peanuts when dat fool girl had to go and break up ma refreshments.

NURSE (*puts milk on table*). If he gets excited again give him some more of the Ozo-kaloo-zum. [*Exits.*]

MON. Oh, look at the baywindows.

PRE. Hush, old baywindows.

MON. They're all dirty. Shame on you, you forgot to wash the baywindows.

PRE. (*at table*). What'll I wash 'em with? Ozo-kaloo-zum?

MON. Certainly not. The baywindows should always be washed with bay-rum.

PRE. Looks like milk. (*Tastes.*) Tastes like milk. (*Drinks all.*) By golly, it is milk.

MON. Ah, there is Ethel. Don't you know me, Ethel? Speak to me! Speak to your Moneypenny. She doesn't know me, because I have a collar on. Where is my Ozo-kaloo-zum?

PRE. I done drank your old Ozo-kaloo-zum.

MON. Drank it? Then you are poisoned, poisoned!

PRE. Who is?

MON. You are. Any sane man who drinks Ozo-kaloo-zum dies in three minutes.

(PREVIOUS *looks astonished, then commences to squirm and jerk, then has big burlesque fit and falls to stage.*)

MON. You are dying, you are dead. Ah, ha, I have killed him. (*Goes to PREVIOUS, puts foot on his stomach.*) The world is mine.

PRE. (*squirts up a mouthful of milk*). Get off the earth.

(*Close in with street drop.*)

SCENE TWO

SCENE:—*A street in one.*

(*Tramp quartet enters and sings popular quartet number.*)

DIN. (*outside*). Hello, there!

DUSTY (*one of the tramps*). Who's there?

DIN. It's Dinty.

DUS. (*to other tramps*). It's Dynamite Dinty, just back from a lay.

(*Enter DINTY carrying a long white robe.*)

DIN. Hello, pards.

DUS. Hello, Dinty, what luck?

DIN. Not a thing but this. (*Holds up robe.*) I got it from a clothesline.

DUS. Where's Previous?

DIN. We got caught in a house and I told them Previous had come in answer to their advertisement for a hired man.

(*TRAMPS all laugh.*)

DUS. He's some hired man.

DIN. Got anything to eat?

DUS. Sure. Got it all hidden down in the graveyard. We're going to have supper served right away, my lord.

DIN. In the graveyard?

DUS. Sure. Safest place in the world. Who ever heard of a bull in a graveyard?

DIN. I don't like graveyards.

DUS. The dead can't hurt you and all other folks is too scared to come there. Come on, Dinty, and join us. We've got a chicken and everything.

(*All go out singing some popular quartet number.*)

MON. (*enters*). Come along, Previous.

PRE. (*outside*). I'm a-coming, but I jest naturally don't like to hurry.

MON. I believe you are afraid.

PRE. (*enters*). No, I ain't, I'm jes' hungry, that's all.

MON. It's just a few blocks farther on. If we get lost we can ask the way from Samuel.

PRE. What Samuel?

MON. Why, don't you know Samuel? There he is.

PRE. Whar is he?

MON. (*pretends to speak to some one, shaking hands, etc.*). Good-evening, Samuel. It's been a long time since I've seen you.

PRE. 'Deed it has. I isn't seen you yet.

MON. How's the wife and all the little Samuels?

PRE. By golly, Samuel's got a whole family.

MON. I just stopped you to ask you the way to the graveyard. Oh, it's over there, you say. Very well, come along, Sadie. (*To PREVIOUS.*)

PRE. Who you callin' Sadie?

MON. Why, you. Aren't you my little pet dog, Sadie?

PRE. Dog if I know.

MON. (*patting his head*). Nice little Sadie! (*PREVIOUS backs away.*) Fie, fie, Sadie, would you flee from me?

PRE. 'Course I'd flee, I'm jest full of fleas. Sadie's got the fleas.

MON. Come on, then, we're off to the graveyard. It's nearly midnight.

PRE. Sadie's done decided dat she don't want no graveyard at midnight.

MON. Are you afraid?

PRE. No, sah, I'm jest cautious, dat's all.

MON. The dead can't hurt you.

PRE. You bet your life dey can't, kase dey ain' gwine kotch me.

MON. I've got to put the peanuts on my grandfather's grave.

PRE. You go on and put 'em on your own self.

MON. (*pulls him off*). Nonsense, don't be a coward. Nothing is going to hurt you. (*They go out at L.*)

SCENE THREE

SCENE:—*A graveyard, full stage. Wood wings and back-ground. Set several white boards around stage for tombstones. Box painted white is at C., a little up-stage.*

(*DINTY, DUSTY and TRAMPS are discovered sitting on the floor, down C., eating.*)

DIN. No use talking, I don't like graveyards.

DUS. We're going down to the railroad yard now and find a nice soft bed in a freight car. You want to come with us?

DIN. Not me. I'm going to wait till long toward morning, then I'm going back to the house where I left Previous. He'll let me in and we'll make a big haul. I'll wait around here till it's time.

DUS. (*rises*). Come on, fellows, I'd rather have a good sleep than rob the First National Bank. (*Starts off.*)

DIN. No one will see me here. I'll just slip on this robe that I stole and if any one *does* come through the graveyard and sees me, they'll get the scare of their lives. I swiped this automobile honker, and that will help, too.

DUS. (*helps him put it on*). You look like an old woman.

DIN. Or an old woman's ghost.

DUS. There's some one coming that way, we'll go this way. You'd better duck, Dinty, some one is walking down the road. Come on, fellows. [*Exit TRAMPS at L.*]

DIN. Then it's me for the tombstone. (*Hides back of box.*)

MON. (*off R.*). Come along, boy, don't be so skeery.

(*Enter from R.*)

PRE. (*following him*). Say, man, why didn't you have your grandpaw buried some place up-town where the lights are lit?

MON. That's my grandfather's tomb. (*Points to box.*)

PRE. Um, boss, I jest naturally feels dat dis place ain't healthy.

MON. Of course it is. See, there's a policeman.

PRE. Whar is he?

MON. Coming right down the road.

PRE. You certainly does see the most curious things.

MON. Now we'll put the peanuts on the tombstone just as the clock strikes twelve.

PRE. When de clock strikes twelve I won't be here, I'll strike for home.

MON. Bless my soul, I've forgotten the peanuts.

PRE. We don't need no peanuts. All we needs is our good old fireside.

MON. Nonsense. I must get the peanuts. You stay here and guard the tomb while I go back and get the peanuts.

PRE. Me stay here?

MON. Certainly.

PRE. Who's going to protect me?

MON. Oh, grandpaw will protect you.

PRE. I'll bet grandpaw will have to run some, if he do.

MON. And there's the policeman. He'll protect you.

PRE. You's alla time seeing policemen and things.

MON. There he comes; don't you see him?

PRE. No, I don't see him. Is his name Samuel?

MON. I don't know what his name is. What is your name, officer?

(McGINTY *has entered and stands behind* PREVIOUS.)

McGINTY. Me name's McGinty.

PRE. Fo' Gawd's sakes! (*Seeing* McGINTY *for the first time.*)

MON. There's a five dollar bill for you, officer. My friend here is just a little scared and I want you to keep an eye on him.

McG. I'll kape both eyes on him.

MON. You know me, don't you, officer?

McG. Sure. You're the nutty Mr. Moneypenny.

MON. Then just come along with me till I buy the peanuts.

PRE. You got to humor him. He ain't crazy, he's just eccentric.

McG. Very well, sor. I'll go with you. Come along.

PRE. I'll come along, too.

MON. You will not. You'll stay here and guard my grandpaw's tomb. Come along, officer. (*They go out.*)

PRE. Mighty spooker-iferous round yere, I shore am. They say this old grabeyard is haunted by the ghost ob a yal-

ler hound dawg dat comes prowlin' round every night jes' about this time. I ain't afraid ob no hound dawg ghosts, pooh, li'l' thing like dat can't scare Previous Difficulties. I'm a brave man, I am.

(DINTY *groans.*)

PRE. No, I ain't, I was jes' a-foolin'. I ain' brave a-tall. Pshaw, dat's jes' de night wind. I ain' gwine let no night-wind skeer me. (*Goes to box.*) I'm jes' gwine sot yere on grandpaw's tomb and wait for old Mr. Nut.

(DINTY *honks auto honk.*)

PRE. (*falls from box to stage*). Oh, good Mr. Ghost, I didn't do it. I's jest a pore li'l' black orphan boy wif one mother and one father; please go on back in your grave and lemme alone.

(*Enter* MONEYPENNY.)

MON. Why, Previous, what's the matter?

PRE. I seen him, boss. I shore did see your old grandpaw.

MON. What did he look like?

PRE. Great big long ears, 'bout a mile an' a half long, and a tail. Um-um!

MON. He came up after his peanuts.

PRE. Gimme dem peanuts.

MON. No, no, these are for grandpaw.

PRE. He ain't no hungrier than I is. Give her, I say. Your peanuts or your life. Gimme dem peanuts.

MON. Help, help, police!

(*Enter* MCGINTY.)

McG. Who calls the police?

MON. He stole my peanuts.

McG. Gimme them peanuts.

PRE. I didn't steal 'em, I only jest borrowed 'em.

McG. (*louder*). Gimme them peanuts. (*Takes them and eats.*)

MON. Here, here, officer, those are for my dead and gone grandpaw. Gimme them peanuts, or I shall report you to headquarters. (*Takes peanuts.*)

McG. Then don't expect me to help you when you get in trouble. Now see here, you! Don't you bother me any more. [*Exits.*]

MON. Has he gone?

PRE. Yassir, he's gone.

MON. Wasn't he a rude person?

PRE. He was most unladylike.

MON. He thought I had a gun, but I didn't.

PRE. Ain't you got no gun?

MON. Certainly not.

PRE. (*loudly*). Then gimme them peanuts.

MON. No, no. (*Starts to run.*)

PRE. (*chasing him around the tombstones*). Gimme them peanuts.

MON. Help, help! (*PREVIOUS grabs peanuts and MONEYPENNY runs out.*)

PRE. Thank de Lawd I'm goin' to git sump'm to eat at last. (*Sits on box.*) Peanuts, you certainly look good to me.

DIN. (*concealed, speaks softly in a ghostly voice*). Gimme them peanuts.

PRE. What's dat?

DIN. (*louder*). Gimme them peanuts.

PRE. My Lawd, he's done come after 'em.

DIN. (*honks horn and jumps at PREVIOUS, who screams and falls on his knees*). Gimme them peanuts.

PRE. Help, murder, fire, police, police!

(*Enter MONEYPENNY and MCGINTY.*)

MON. It's grandpaw's ghost.

McG. (*grabs DINTY*). It's Dynamite Dinty, the crook. Come on you! (*Drags him to R.*)

PRE. Wait a minute. Ghost, gimme dem peanuts.

McG. There's a reward of five hundred dollars for the capture of Dinty. Boy, I'll split it with you.

PRE. (*on box, eating peanuts*). Don't bother me. I ain't got no time for no reward. All I wants is jes' to sit here with good old Mr. Moneypenny on his grandfather's tomb and eat —— (*MONEYPENNY takes peanuts.*) Here, gimme them peanuts!

QUICK CURTAIN

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